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| <i>C22C 19/07</i> | (2006.01) |
| <i>B23P 6/00</i> | (2006.01) |

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CPC **B23K 26/08** (2013.01); **B23K 2201/001**
(2013.01); **B23K 26/3206** (2013.01); **B23K**
26/3213 (2013.01); **B23K 26/345** (2013.01);
C22C 19/055 (2013.01); **C22C 19/056**
(2013.01); **C22C 19/057** (2013.01); **C22C**
19/07 (2013.01); **B23P 6/007** (2013.01)

- (58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 219/121.6–121.66, 121.78, 121.16;
29/889, 889.1
See application file for complete search history.

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- Primary Examiner — Sang Y Paik

- (57) **ABSTRACT**

- Welding repairs are often carried out on directionally solidified components that nevertheless do not possess the desired crystallographic surface alignment, which reduces mechanical strength. The method provided selects the direction of travel depending on the crystallographically preferred direction of the substrate such that no more misorientations occur. A laser beam may be used for remelting.

- 10 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets**

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FIG 1

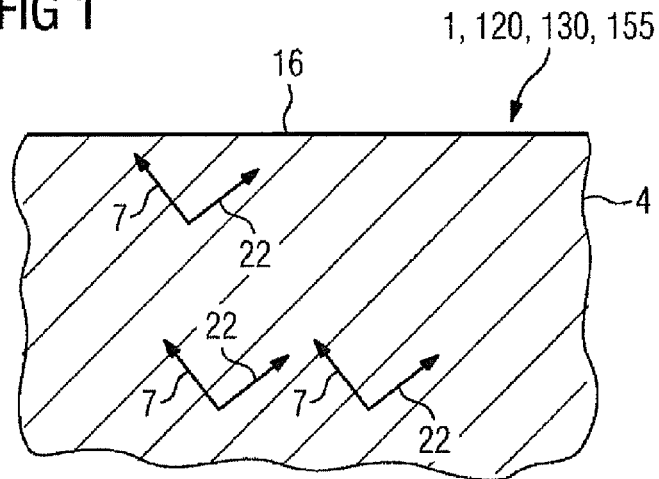


FIG 2

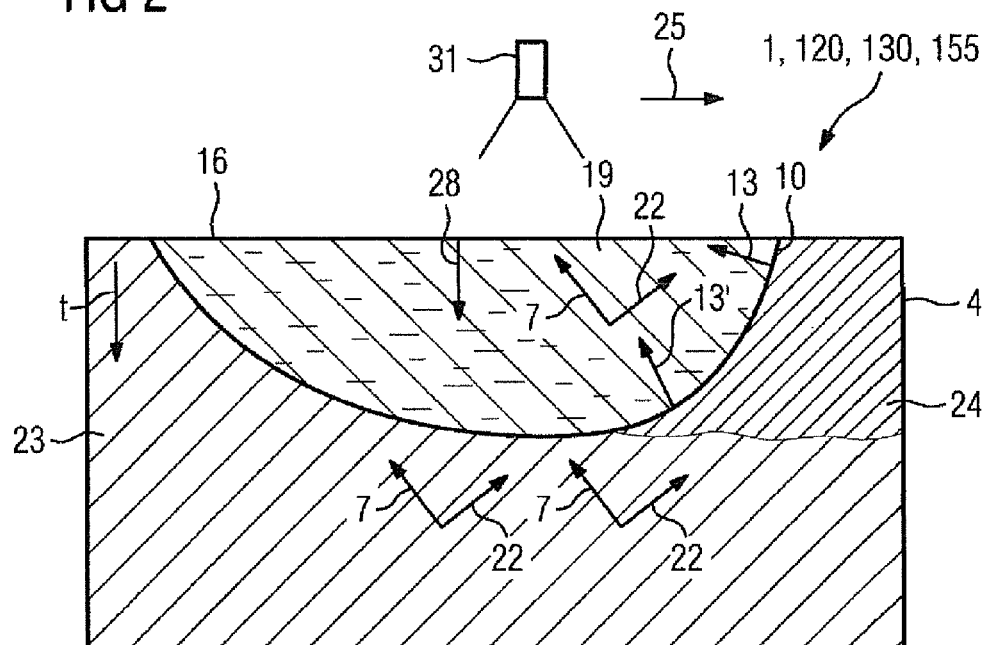


FIG 3

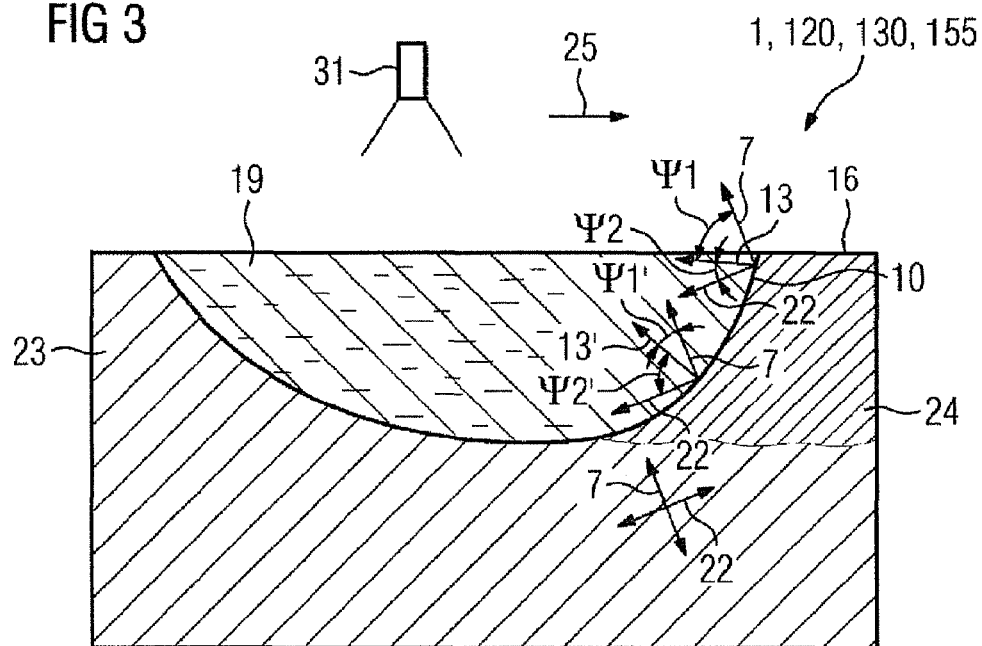


FIG 4

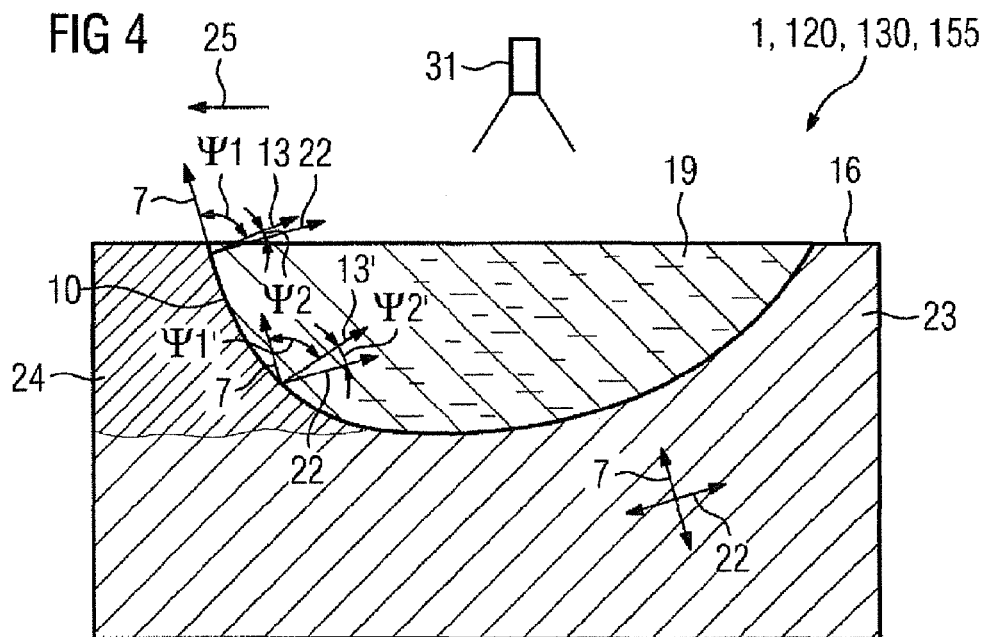


FIG 5

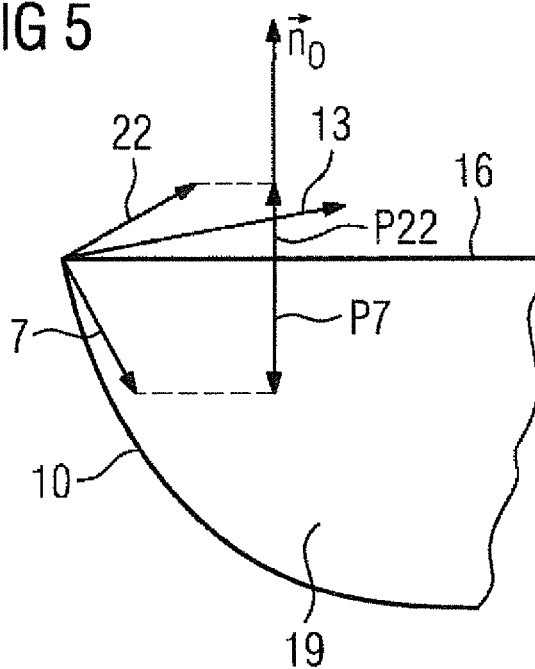
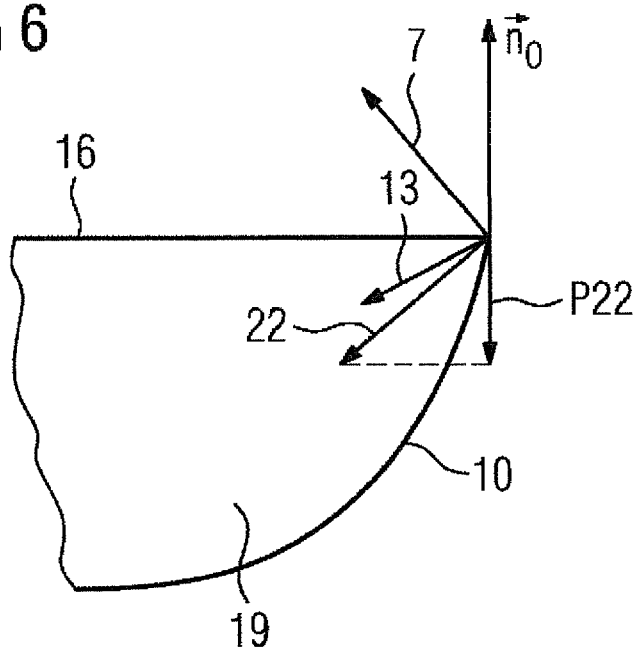
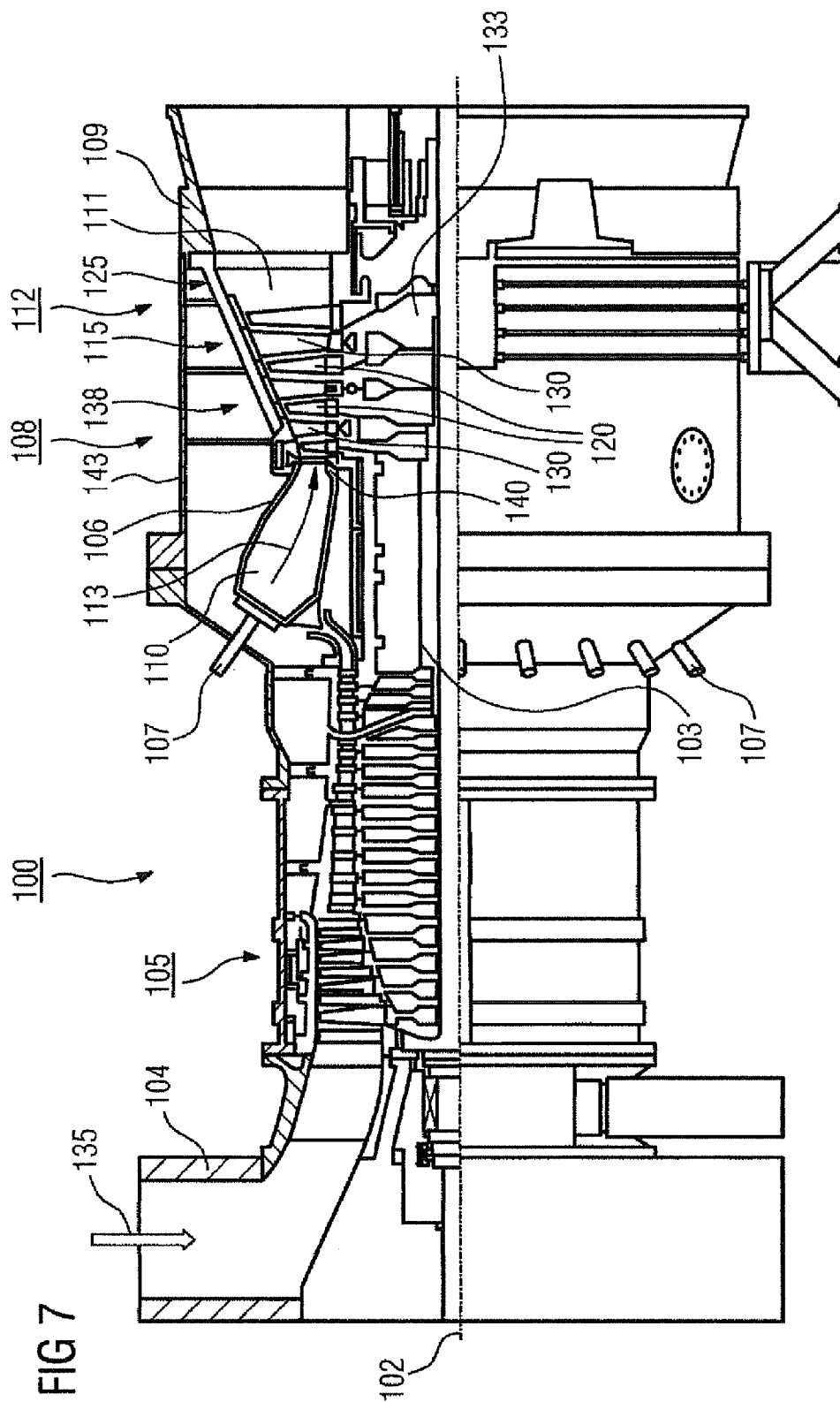


FIG 6





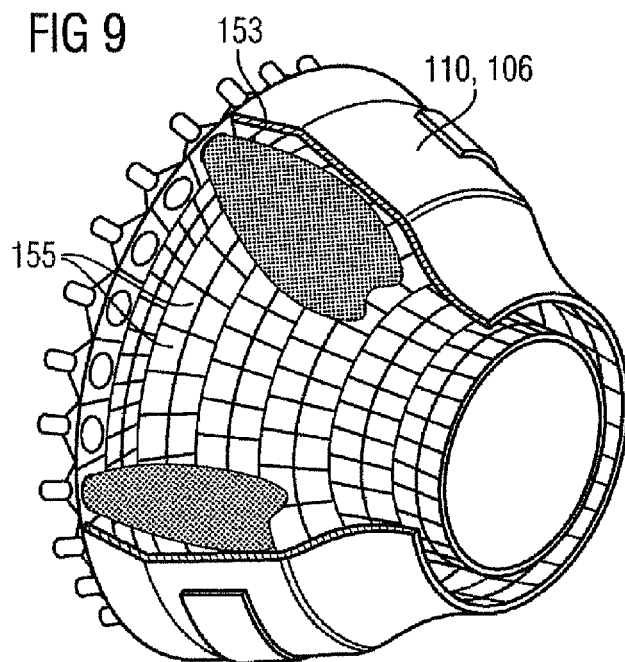
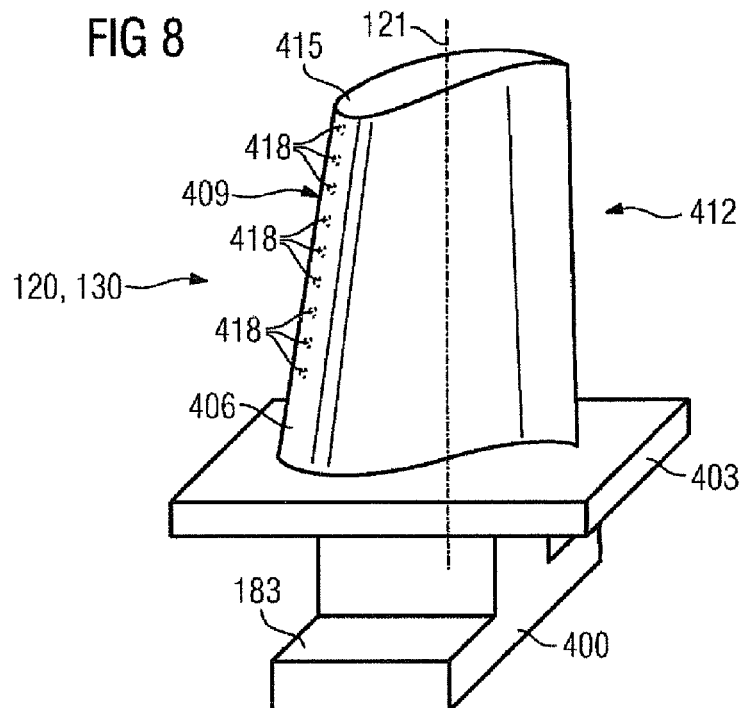


FIG 10

Material	Chemical composition in %													
	C	Cr	Ni	Co	Mo	W	Ta	Nb	Al	Ti	B	Zr	Hf	
Ni-based investment casting alloys														
GTD 222	0.10	22.5	Rem.	19.0		2.0	1.0		1.2	2.3	0.008			
IN 939	0.15	22.4	Rem.	19.0		2.0	1.4	1.0	1.9	3.7	0.009	0.10		
IN 6203 DS	0.15	22.0	Rem.	19.0		2.0	1.1	0.8	2.3	3.5	0.010	0.10	0.75	
Udimet 500	0.10	18.0	Rem.	18.5	4.0				2.9	2.9	0.006	0.05		
IN 738 LC	0.10	16.0	Rem.	8.5	1.7	2.6	1.7	0.9	3.4	3.4	0.010	0.10		
SC 16	<0.01	16.0	Rem.		3.0		3.5		3.5	3.5	<0.005	<0.008		
Rene 80	0.17	14.0	Rem.	9.5	4.0	4.0			3.0	5.0	0.015	0.03		
GTD 111	0.10	14.0	Rem.	9.5	1.5	3.8	2.8		3.0	4.9	0.012	0.03		
GTD 111 DS														
IN 792 CC	0.08	12.5	Rem.	9.0	1.9	4.1	4.1		3.4	3.8	0.015	0.02		
IN 792 DS	0.08	12.5	Rem.	9.0	1.9	4.1	4.1		3.4	3.8	0.015	0.02	1.00	
MAR M 002	0.15	9.0	Rem.	10.0		10.0	2.5		5.5	1.5	0.015	0.05	1.50	
MAR M 247 LC DS	0.07	8.1	Rem.	9.2	0.5	9.5	3.2		5.6	0.7	0.015	0.02	1.40	
CMSX-2	<.006	8.0	Rem.	4.6	0.6	8.0	6.0		5.6	1.0	<.003	<.0075		
CMSX-3	<.006	8.0	Rem.	4.6	0.6	8.0	6.0		5.6	1.0	<.003	<.0075	0.10	
CMSX-4		6.0	Rem.	10.0	0.6	6.0	6.0		5.6	1.0		Re=3.0	0.10	
CMSX-6	<.015	10.0	Rem.	5.0	3.0	<.10	2.0	<.10	4.9	4.8	<.003	<.0075	0.10	
PWA 1480 SX	<.006	10.0	Rem.	5.0		4.0	12.0		5.0	1.5	<.0075	<.0075		
PWA 1483 SX	0.07	12.2	Rem.	9.0	1.9	3.8	5.0		3.6	4.2	0.0001	0.002		
Co-based investment casting alloys														
FSX 414	0.25	29.0	10	Rem.		7.5					0.010			
X 45	0.25	25.0	10	Rem.		8.0					0.010			
ECY 768	0.65	24.0	10	51.7		7.5	4.0		0.25	0.3	0.010	0.05		
MAR-M-509	0.65	24.5	11	Rem.		7.5	4			0.3	0.010	0.60		
CM 247	0.07	8.3	Rem.	10.0	0.5	9.5	3.2		5.5	0.7			1.5	

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METHOD FOR WELDING DEPENDING ON A PREFERRED DIRECTION OF THE SUBSTRATE

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is the US National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP2009/054306, filed Apr. 9, 2009 and claims the benefit thereof. The International Application claims the benefits of German application No. 10 2008 018 708.9 DE filed Apr. 14, 2008. All of the applications are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

FIELD OF INVENTION

The invention relates to a process for welding a substrate having a preferred direction.

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

Welding is a repair process which is frequently used to close cracks or to apply material. In this case, a laser is often used as the energy source. The laser welding process is also used to repair directionally solidified components, for example turbine blades or vanes of the largest gas turbines, after they have been used, which possibly have cracks as a result of extraordinarily severe loading. These can be components with grains solidified in columnar form (DS) or else single crystals (SX).

The component therefore has a defined preferred crystallographic direction in the crystal structure. The solidification behavior of the material, which should obtain the same orientation as the substrate during the laser welding, depends on the composition of the alloy, the temperature gradient and the solidification rate. For a defined alloy, there are graphs showing how the structure developed depending on the temperature gradient and the solidification rate.

Nevertheless, grains frequently grow in an undesirable direction.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the invention to overcome this problem.

The object is achieved by a process as claimed in the claims.

The dependent claims list further advantageous measures which can be combined with one another, as desired, in order to obtain further advantages.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1-6 show a substrate during laser remelting, FIG. 7 shows a gas turbine, FIG. 8 shows a perspective view of a turbine blade or vane, FIG. 9 shows a perspective view of a combustion chamber, and

FIG. 10 shows a list of superalloys.

The figures and the description represent only exemplary embodiments of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a component 1, 120, 130 (FIGS. 8, 10), 155 (FIG. 9) having a substrate 4 which, in

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particular in the case of turbine blades or vanes for gas turbines 100 (FIG. 7) or steam turbines, has a superalloy according to FIG. 10.

The substrate 4 has a directionally solidified structure, i.e. it can consist of columnar grains solidified in columnar form (DS) or of a single crystal (SX). The arrows 7, 22 indicate the preferred crystallographic directions of the substrate 4, i.e. of the single crystal or of the columnar grains (e.g.: $[001]=7$, $[010]=22$).

The substrate 4 has a crack (not shown). The substrate 4 is therefore melted (remelted) in the region of the crack, where the molten region (melt 19, FIGS. 3, 4) should again solidify directionally in a DS or SX structure.

The substrate 4 may likewise have a point (excessively thin wall, not shown) which is to be strengthened by build-up welding (i.e. the supply of material is required), in particular laser build-up welding.

FIG. 2 shows a line 10 of a solidification front, which represents a surface and, in the plane of the drawing, shows a transition between a melt 19 and the zone 24 which has already solidified from a melt and also a region 23 still to be remelted.

In the figures, the line 10 always shows only a section of the solidification front.

The substrate 4 moves along a direction 25 from left to right in the drawing, such that the solidification front 10 propagates from right to left in the drawing counter to the direction 25.

It is likewise possible for only the welding appliance 31 to move instead of the substrate 4.

The solidification front 10 is then that part of the elliptical line 10, on the right in FIG. 2, which comprises the melt 19. The line 10 is only exemplary. The line 10 may also have other forms.

Depending on the depth t along the direction 28 (perpendicular downward to the surface 16) of the line 10, there are differently oriented temperature gradients 13, 13', depending on the vicinity of the surface 16 of the substrate 4. Here, the temperature gradient 13, 13' is virtually perpendicular on the solidification front 10.

Proceeding from FIG. 2, angles $\Psi 1$, $\Psi 1'$ and $\Psi 2$, $\Psi 2'$ are then additionally shown in FIG. 3 (and also in FIG. 4), where $\Psi 1$, $\Psi 1'$ are the angles between the preferred direction 7 and the temperature gradients 13, 13' and $\Psi 2$, $\Psi 2'$ are the angles between the temperature gradients 13, 13' and a second crystallographic direction 22 (perpendicular to the preferred direction 7).

Here, the substrate 4 moves from left to right in the drawing.

In FIG. 3, the direction of dendrite growth is changed during growth from the melt 19, since $\Psi 2 < \Psi 1$ holds true at the surface 16, such that the crystallographic direction 22 directed downward from the surface 16 is energetically promoted, and the dendrites grow in a second crystallographic direction 22 from the surface 16, such that secondary grains form in the region of the surface.

At a greater depth, it may hold true that $\Psi 2' > \Psi 1'$ and the direction 7 is preferred.

The problem first arises when a direction of dendrite growth directed from the surface 16 into the melt 19 is favored at the surface 16. By definition, epitaxial growth from the surface 16 is not possible, because a substrate which can act as a nucleus for the dendrites is not present there. Instead, the progression of the solid/liquid phase boundary at the surface 16 is realized under these conditions via the formation of secondary arms, tertiary arms, etc. This is too slow compared to the rate of growth of the nuclei before the solidification front. At some point in time, one of these nuclei prevails with

respect to the epitaxially grown dendrites, and directions of dendrite growth which are not correlated with those in the substrate **4** are formed.

The problem of epitaxy loss therefore always arises whenever the crystal directions **7, 22** favored at the surface **16** are not oriented parallel to the surface **16**. These crystal directions **7, 22**, favored for the dendrite growth, are independent of the direction of movement **25**. However, these crystal directions can be utilized by the dendrites for their growth in two directions.

In order to avoid epitaxy loss, the direction of movement **25** has to be selected in such a manner that of the crystal directions **7, 22** (here **22**) favored at the surface **16** on the solidification front **10**, a direction of dendrite growth which has a projection (vectors **P22**, **P7**=projections of **7, 22** to surface normal \vec{n}_0) in the direction of the surface normal \vec{n}_0 (FIG. **5**) is initialized.

By selecting the direction of movement **25** in FIG. **4**, specifically from right to left in the drawing, that crystallographic direction, here **22**, which is not directed downward from the surface **16** is preferred.

This applies with preference to the entire solidification front **10**, i.e. the line **10** between the melt pool **19** and the region **24** which has already solidified.

Both of the crystallographic directions **7, 22** are permissible and desirable. This actually involves the loss of epitaxial growth, which has the effect that the crystal orientation is lost completely in the weld metal (FIG. **6**: vector **P22** opposed to \vec{n}_0 =FIG. **3**). This can be avoided by preventing the promotion of a direction of dendrite growth directed downward from the surface **16**.

FIG. **7** shows, by way of example, a partial longitudinal section through a gas turbine **100**.

In the interior, the gas turbine **100** has a rotor **103** with a shaft **101** which is mounted such that it can rotate about an axis of rotation **102** and is also referred to as the turbine rotor.

An intake housing **104**, a compressor **105**, a, for example, toroidal combustion chamber **110**, in particular an annular combustion chamber, with a plurality of coaxially arranged burners **107**, a turbine **108** and the exhaust-gas housing **109** follow one another along the rotor **103**.

The annular combustion chamber **110** is in communication with a, for example, annular hot-gas passage **111**, where, by way of example, four successive turbine stages **112** form the turbine **108**.

Each turbine stage **112** is formed, for example, from two blade or vane rings. As seen in the direction of flow of a working medium **113**, in the hot-gas passage **111** a row of guide vanes **115** is followed by a row **125** formed from rotor blades **120**.

The guide vanes **130** are secured to an inner housing **138** of a stator **143**, whereas the rotor blades **120** of a row **125** are fitted to the rotor **103** for example by means of a turbine disk **133**.

A generator (not shown) is coupled to the rotor **103**.

While the gas turbine **100** is operating, the compressor **105** sucks in air **135** through the intake housing **104** and compresses it. The compressed air provided at the turbine-side end of the compressor **105** is passed to the burners **107**, where it is mixed with a fuel. The mix is then burnt in the combustion chamber **110**, forming the working medium **113**. From there, the working medium **113** flows along the hot-gas passage **111** past the guide vanes **130** and the rotor blades **120**. The working medium **113** is expanded at the rotor blades **120**, trans-

ferring its momentum, so that the rotor blades **120** drive the rotor **103** and the latter in turn drives the generator coupled to it.

While the gas turbine **100** is operating, the components which are exposed to the hot working medium **113** are subject to thermal stresses. The guide vanes **130** and rotor blades **120** of the first turbine stage **112**, as seen in the direction of flow of the working medium **113**, together with the heat shield elements which line the annular combustion chamber **110**, are subject to the highest thermal stresses.

To be able to withstand the temperatures which prevail there, they may be cooled by means of a coolant.

Substrates of the components may likewise have a directional structure, i.e. they are in single-crystal form (SX structure) or have only longitudinally oriented grains (DS structure).

By way of example, iron-based, nickel-based or cobalt-based superalloys are used as material for the components, in particular for the turbine blade or vane **120, 130** and components of the combustion chamber **110**.

Superalloys of this type are known, for example, from EP 1 204 776 B1, EP 1 306 454, EP 1 319 729 A1, WO 99/67435 or WO 00/44949.

The blades or vanes **120, 130** may likewise have coatings protecting against corrosion (MCrAlX; M is at least one element selected from the group consisting of iron (Fe), cobalt (Co), nickel (Ni), X is an active element and stands for yttrium (Y) and/or silicon, scandium (Sc) and/or at least one rare earth element, or hafnium). Alloys of this type are known from EP 0 486 489 B1, EP 0 786 017 B1, EP 0 412 397 B1 or EP 1 306 454 A1.

It is also possible for a thermal barrier coating to be present on the MCrAlX, consisting for example of ZrO_2 , Y_2O_3 — ZrO_2 , i.e. unstabilized, partially stabilized or fully stabilized by yttrium oxide and/or calcium oxide and/or magnesium oxide.

Columnar grains are produced in the thermal barrier coating by suitable coating processes, such as for example electron beam physical vapor deposition (EB-PVD).

The guide vane **130** has a guide vane root (not shown here), which faces the inner housing **138** of the turbine **108**, and a guide vane head which is at the opposite end from the guide vane root. The guide vane head faces the rotor **103** and is fixed to a securing ring **140** of the stator **143**.

FIG. **8** shows a perspective view of a rotor blade **120** or guide vane **130** of a turbomachine, which extends along a longitudinal axis **121**.

The turbomachine may be a gas turbine of an aircraft or of a power plant for generating electricity, a steam turbine or a compressor.

The blade or vane **120, 130** has, in succession along the longitudinal axis **121**, a securing region **400**, an adjoining blade or vane platform **403** and a main blade or vane part **406** and a blade or vane tip **415**.

As a guide vane **130**, the vane **130** may have a further platform (not shown) at its vane tip **415**.

A blade or vane root **183**, which is used to secure the rotor blades **120, 130** to a shaft or a disk (not shown), is formed in the securing region **400**.

The blade or vane root **183** is designed, for example, in hammerhead form. Other configurations, such as a fir-tree or dovetail root, are possible.

The blade or vane **120, 130** has a leading edge **409** and a trailing edge **412** for a medium which flows past the main blade or vane part **406**.

In the case of conventional blades or vanes **120, 130**, by way of example solid metallic materials, in particular superalloys, are used in all regions **400, 403, 406** of the blade or vane **120, 130**.

Superalloys of this type are known, for example, from EP 1 204 776 B1, EP 1 306 454, EP 1 319 729 A1, WO 99/67435 or WO 00/44949.

The blade or vane **120, 130** may in this case be produced by a casting process, by means of directional solidification, by a forging process, by a milling process or combinations thereof.

Workpieces with a single-crystal structure or structures are used as components for machines which, in operation, are exposed to high mechanical, thermal and/or chemical stresses.

Single-crystal workpieces of this type are produced, for example, by directional solidification from the melt. This involves casting processes in which the liquid metallic alloy solidifies to form the single-crystal structure, i.e. the single-crystal workpiece, or solidifies directionally.

In this case, dendritic crystals are oriented along the direction of heat flow and form either a columnar crystalline grain structure (i.e. grains which run over the entire length of the workpiece and are referred to here, in accordance with the language customarily used, as directionally solidified) or a single-crystal structure, i.e. the entire workpiece consists of one single crystal. In these processes, a transition to globular (polycrystalline) solidification needs to be avoided, since non-directional growth inevitably forms transverse and longitudinal grain boundaries, which negate the favorable properties of the directionally solidified or single-crystal component.

Where the text refers in general terms to directionally solidified microstructures, this is to be understood as meaning both single crystals, which do not have any grain boundaries or at most have small-angle grain boundaries, and columnar crystal structures, which do have grain boundaries running in the longitudinal direction but do not have any transverse grain boundaries. This second form of crystalline structures is also described as directionally solidified microstructures (directionally solidified structures).

Processes of this type are known from U.S. Pat. No. 6,024, 792 and EP 0 892 090 A1.

The blades or vanes **120, 130** may likewise have coatings protecting against corrosion or oxidation e.g. (MCrAlX; M is at least one element selected from the group consisting of iron (Fe), cobalt (Co), nickel (Ni), X is an active element and stands for yttrium (Y) and/or silicon and/or at least one rare earth element, or hafnium (Hf)). Alloys of this type are known from EP 0 486 489 B1, EP 0 786 017 B1, EP 0 412 397 B1 or EP 1 306 454 A1.

The density is preferably 95% of the theoretical density.

A protective aluminum oxide layer (TGO=thermally grown oxide layer) is formed on the MCrAlX layer (as an intermediate layer or as the outermost layer).

The layer preferably has a composition Co-30Ni-28Cr-8Al-0.6Y-0.7Si or Co-28Ni-24Cr-10Al-0.6Y. In addition to these cobalt-based protective coatings, it is also preferable to use nickel-based protective layers, such as Ni-10Cr-12Al-0.6Y-3Re or Ni-12Co-21Cr-11Al-0.4Y-2Re or Ni-25Co-17Cr-10Al-0.4Y-1.5Re.

It is also possible for a thermal barrier coating, which is preferably the outermost layer and consists for example of ZrO_2 , Y_2O_3 — ZrO_2 , i.e. unstabilized, partially stabilized or fully stabilized by yttrium oxide and/or calcium oxide and/or magnesium oxide, to be present on the MCrAlX.

The thermal barrier coating covers the entire MCrAlX layer. Columnar grains are produced in the thermal barrier coating by suitable coating processes, such as for example electron beam physical vapor deposition (EB-PVD).

Other coating processes are possible, for example atmospheric plasma spraying (APS), LPPS, VPS or CVD. The thermal barrier coating may include grains that are porous or have micro-cracks or macro-cracks, in order to improve the resistance to thermal shocks. The thermal barrier coating is therefore preferably more porous than the MCrAlX layer.

Refurbishment means that after they have been used, protective layers may have to be removed from components **120, 130** (e.g. by sand-blasting). Then, the corrosion and/or oxidation layers and products are removed. If appropriate, cracks in the component **120, 130** are also repaired. This is followed by recoating of the component **120, 130**, after which the component **120, 130** can be reused.

The blade or vane **120, 130** may be hollow or solid in form.

If the blade or vane **120, 130** is to be cooled, it is hollow and may also have film-cooling holes **418** (indicated by dashed lines).

FIG. 9 shows a combustion chamber **110** of a gas turbine. The combustion chamber **110** is configured, for example, as what is known as an annular combustion chamber, in which a multiplicity of burners **107**, which generate flames **156**, arranged circumferentially around an axis of rotation **102** open out into a common combustion chamber space **154**. For this purpose, the combustion chamber **110** overall is of annular configuration positioned around the axis of rotation **102**.

To achieve a relatively high efficiency, the combustion chamber **110** is designed for a relatively high temperature of the working medium M of approximately 1000° C. to 1600° C. To allow a relatively long service life even with these operating parameters, which are unfavorable for the materials, the combustion chamber wall **153** is provided, on its side which faces the working medium M, with an inner lining formed from heat shield elements **155**.

On the working medium side, each heat shield element **155** made from an alloy is equipped with a particularly heat-resistant protective layer (MCrAlX layer and/or ceramic coating) or is made from material that is able to withstand high temperatures (solid ceramic bricks).

These protective layers may be similar to the turbine blades or vanes, i.e. for example MCrAlX: M is at least one element selected from the group consisting of iron (Fe), cobalt (Co), nickel (Ni), X is an active element and stands for yttrium (Y) and/or silicon and/or at least one rare earth element or hafnium (Hf). Alloys of this type are known from EP 0 486 489 B1, EP 0 786 017 B1, EP 0 412 397 B1 or EP 1 306 454 A1.

It is also possible for a, for example, ceramic thermal barrier coating to be present on the MCrAlX, consisting for example of ZrO_2 , Y_2O_3 — ZrO_2 , i.e. unstabilized, partially stabilized or fully stabilized by yttrium oxide and/or calcium oxide and/or magnesium oxide.

Columnar grains are produced in the thermal barrier coating by suitable coating processes, such as for example electron beam physical vapor deposition (EB-PVD).

Other coating processes are possible, e.g. atmospheric plasma spraying (APS), LPPS, VPS or CVD. The thermal barrier coating may include grains that are porous or have micro-cracks or macro-cracks, in order to improve the resistance to thermal shocks.

Refurbishment means that after they have been used, protective layers may have to be removed from heat shield elements **155** (e.g. by sand-blasting). Then, the corrosion and/or oxidation layers and products are removed. If appropriate,

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cracks in the heat shield element **155** are also repaired. This is followed by recoating of the heat shield elements **155**, after which the heat shield elements **155** can be reused.

Moreover, a cooling system may be provided for the heat shield elements **155** and/or their holding elements, on account of the high temperatures in the interior of the combustion chamber **110**. The heat shield elements **155** are then, for example, hollow and may also have cooling holes (not shown) opening out into the combustion chamber space **154**.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for welding a directionally solidified component, comprising:

moving an energy source or a substrate with respect to the other of the energy source or the substrate along a direction of movement, wherein the substrate comprises grains solidified in a columnar form or a single-crystal form;

melting the substrate with the energy source to form a melt along the direction of movement, wherein the melting produces a solidification front between the melt and a solidified region of a melt, and wherein the melt includes a temperature gradient on the solidification front;

defining a first angle between a first preferred crystallographic direction of dendritic growth of the substrate and the temperature gradient on the solidification front;

defining a second angle between the temperature gradient and a second preferred crystallographic direction of dendritic growth on the solidification front; and

resolidifying the melted substrate directionally in the columnar form or the single-crystal form in the second preferred crystallographic direction of dendritic growth of the substrate;

wherein the direction of movement of the substrate or the energy source is selected such that the second preferred

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crystallographic direction of dendritic growth is directed parallel to a surface of the substrate.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the energy source is moved with respect to the substrate.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the substrate is moved with respect to the energy source.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the energy source comprises a laser beam.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second preferred crystallographic direction is not directed downward from the surface over the entire solidification front.

6. A method for welding a directionally solidified component, comprising:

providing a substrate comprising a surface grains solidified in a columnar form or a single-crystal form;

melting the substrate along a direction of movement so as to form a solidification front at an interface between a melt and a solidified region of a melt, wherein the direction of movement is selected such that a direction of dendrite growth is initialized in a direction parallel to the surface; and

resolidifying the melted substrate directionally in the columnar form or the single-crystal form.

7. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the energy source is moved with respect to the substrate.

8. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the substrate is moved with respect to the energy source.

9. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the energy source comprises a laser beam.

10. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the direction of dendrite growth is not directed downward from the surface over the entire solidification front.

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